

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for using a computer-implemented intermediary to manage electronic
2 messages, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
3 receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to subscribe to an
4 e-mail resource;
5 generating an address that is only associated with the user and the e-mail
6 resource; and
7 sending, from the intermediary in response to the request, the address to
8 the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the user to the e-mail
9 resource using the address.

- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented
2 steps of:
3 generating a plurality of additional addresses, wherein each of the
4 plurality of additional addresses is only associated with a unique
5 pairing of one of a plurality of users and one of a plurality of
6 e-mail resources;
7 receiving, at the intermediary, a plurality of electronic messages from
8 the plurality of e-mail resources, wherein each of the plurality of
9 electronic messages is addressed using one of the plurality of
10 additional addresses; and
11 providing one or more of the plurality of electronic messages to the user
12 only when each of the plurality of electronic messages is
13 addressed using one additional address from among the plurality
14 of additional addresses that is associated with the user.

1 3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the plurality of
2 electronic messages to the user comprises the computer-implemented
3 step of:
4 sending the plurality of electronic messages from the intermediary to the
5 user at a forwarding address provided by the user.

1 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the plurality of
2 electronic messages to the user comprises the computer-implemented
3 steps of:
4 generating, at the intermediary, a listing of the plurality of electronic
5 messages; and
6 providing the user with the listing of the plurality of electronic
7 messages.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the listing of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes a set of groups and the method further comprises the
3 computer-implemented step of:
4 sorting the plurality of electronic messages into the set of groups based
5 upon the address for each unique pairing of the user and the one
6 or more e-mail resources.

1 6. The method of Claim 2, wherein the step of providing the plurality of
2 electronic messages to the user comprises the computer-implemented
3 steps of:
4 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is an
5 unwanted electronic message; and

6 ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is identified as
7 said unwanted electronic message.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes a sending address, and wherein the step of identifying
3 whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted
4 electronic message comprises the computer-implemented steps of:
5 determining whether the sending address is included in a list of
6 authorized sending addresses; and
7 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as said
8 unwanted electronic message when the sending address is not
9 included in the list of authorized sending addresses.

1 8. The method of Claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes contents, and wherein the step of identifying whether
3 each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
4 message is based on the contents of each of the plurality of electronic
5 messages.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of identifying whether each of
2 the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic message
3 comprises the computer-implemented steps of:
4 determining whether the electronic message contains a hidden image;
5 and
6 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as said
7 unwanted electronic message when the electronic message
8 contains said hidden image.

1 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented
2 steps of:

3 displaying a screen display that shows a subscription form, for
4 subscribing to the e-mail resource, that includes information
5 about the user.

1 11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the computer-implemented
2 steps of:

3 in response to the user selecting the e-mail resource from a plurality of
4 e-mail resources, displaying a screen display that shows
5 information about the e-mail resource.

1 12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the screen display includes a sample
2 electronic message sent by the e-mail resource.

1 13. A method for categorizing electronic messages using a set of message
2 groups, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
3 receiving a plurality of electronic messages for a user, wherein each of
4 the plurality of electronic messages includes address data;
5 identifying, for each of the plurality of electronic messages, a particular
6 group from said set of message groups based upon a mapping
7 between the particular group and the address data;
8 sorting each of the plurality of electronic messages into said set of
9 message groups based on the particular group identified for each
10 of the plurality of electronic messages; and
11 providing to the user the plurality of electronic messages that are sorted
12 into said set of message groups.

1 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the address data includes a sending
2 address and wherein the step of identifying the particular group based
3 upon the mapping between the particular group and the address data
4 comprises the computer-implemented step of:
5 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
6 the particular group and the sending address.

1 15. The method of Claim 13, wherein the address data includes a receiving
2 address and wherein the step of identifying the particular group based
3 upon the mapping between the particular group and the address data
4 comprises the computer-implemented step of:
5 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
6 the particular group and the receiving address.

1 16. The method of Claim 15, wherein the receiving address is an address
2 that is only associated with the user and an e-mail resource from which
3 said each of the plurality of electronic messages is received, and wherein
4 the step of identifying the particular group based upon the mapping
5 between the particular group and the receiving address comprises the
6 computer-implemented step of:
7 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
8 the particular group and the address.

1 17. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of providing to the user the
2 plurality of electronic messages that are sorted into said set of message
3 groups comprises the computer-implemented steps of:
4 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is an
5 unwanted electronic message; and
6 ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is identified as
7 said unwanted electronic message.

1 18. The method of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes a sending address, and wherein the step of identifying
3 whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted
4 electronic message comprises the computer-implemented steps of:
5 determining whether the sending address is included in a list of
6 authorized sending addresses; and
7 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as unwanted
8 when the sending address is not included in the list of authorized
9 sending addresses.

1 19. The method of Claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes contents, and wherein the step of identifying whether
3 each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
4 message is based on the contents of each of the plurality of electronic
5 messages.

1 20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of identifying whether each
2 of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
3 message comprises the computer-implemented steps of:
4 determining whether each of the plurality of electronic messages
5 contains a hidden image; and
6 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as unwanted
7 when said each of the plurality of electronic messages contains
8 said hidden image.

1 21. The method of Claim 13, wherein the step of providing to the user the
2 plurality of electronic messages that are sorted into said set of message
3 groups comprises the step of:
4 displaying a first screen display that shows the set of groups into which
5 the plurality of messages is sorted.

1 22. The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of:
2 in response to the user selecting a particular group from among the set of
3 groups shown in the first screen display, displaying a second
4 screen display that lists the messages received for the particular
5 group.

1 23. A method for using a computer-implemented intermediary to filter electronic
2 messages, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
3 receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to subscribe to an
4 e-mail resource;
5 generating an address that is only associated with the user and the e-mail
6 resource;

7 sending, from the intermediary in response to the request, the address to
8 the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the user to the e-mail
9 resource using the address;
10 receiving, from the e-mail resource, an electronic message the includes
11 the address;
12 identifying whether the electronic message is an unwanted electronic
13 message; and
14 when the electronic message is not identified as said unwanted
15 electronic message, providing the electronic message to the user.

1 24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of:
2 displaying a screen display that allows the user to configure whether the
3 electronic message is identified as said unwanted electronic
4 message.

1 25. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 using a computer-implemented intermediary to manage electronic messages, wherein
3 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
4 causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
5 receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to subscribe to an
6 e-mail resource;
7 generating an address that is only associated with the user and the e-mail
8 resource; and
9 sending, from the intermediary in response to the request, the address to
10 the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the user to the e-mail
11 resource using the address.

1 26. The computer-readable medium of Claim 25, further comprising
2 instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the
3 one or more processors to carry out the steps of:
4 generating a plurality of additional addresses, wherein each of the
5 plurality of additional addresses is only associated with a unique
6 pairing of one of a plurality of users and one of a plurality of
7 e-mail resources;
8 receiving, at the intermediary, a plurality of electronic messages from
9 the plurality of e-mail resources, wherein each of the plurality of
10 electronic messages is addressed using one of the plurality of
11 additional addresses; and
12 providing one or more of the plurality of electronic messages to the user
13 only when each of the plurality of electronic messages is
14 addressed using one additional address from among the plurality
15 of additional addresses that is associated with the user.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein the step of
2 providing the plurality of electronic messages to the user comprises
3 instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the
4 one or more processors to carry out the step of:
5 sending the plurality of electronic messages from the intermediary to the
6 user at a forwarding address provided by the user.

1 28. The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein the step of
2 providing the plurality of electronic messages to the user comprises
3 instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the
4 one or more processors to carry out the steps of:
5 generating, at the intermediary, a listing of the plurality of electronic
6 messages; and
7 providing the user with the listing of the plurality of electronic
8 messages.

1 29. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28, wherein the listing of the
2 plurality of electronic messages includes a set of groups and further
3 comprising instructions which, when executed by one or more
4 processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of:
5 sorting the plurality of electronic messages into the set of groups based
6 upon the address for each unique pairing of the user and the one
7 or more e-mail resources.

1 30. The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein the step of
2 providing the plurality of electronic messages to the user comprises
3 instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the
4 one or more processors to carry out the step of:
5 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is an
6 unwanted electronic message; and
7 ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is identified as
8 said unwanted electronic message.

1 31. The computer-readable medium of Claim 30, wherein each of the
2 plurality of electronic messages includes a sending address, and wherein
3 the step of identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic
4 messages is said unwanted electronic message comprises instructions
5 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more
6 processors to carry out the step of:

7 determining whether the sending address is included in a list of
8 authorized sending addresses; and
9 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as said
10 unwanted electronic message when the sending address is not
11 included in the list of authorized sending addresses.

1 32. The computer-readable medium of Claim 30, wherein each of the
2 plurality of electronic messages includes contents, and wherein the step
3 of identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is
4 said unwanted electronic message is based on the contents of each of the
5 plurality of electronic messages.

1 33. The computer-readable medium of Claim 32, wherein the step of
2 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said
3 unwanted electronic message comprises instructions which, when
4 executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
5 carry out the steps of:
6 determining whether the electronic message contains a hidden image;
7 and

8 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as said
9 unwanted electronic message when the electronic message
10 contains said hidden image.

1 34. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of
2 instructions for categorizing electronic messages using a set of message
3 groups, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of instructions
4 by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to perform
5 the steps of:
6 receiving a plurality of electronic messages for a user, wherein each of
7 the plurality of electronic messages includes address data;
8 identifying, for each of the plurality of electronic messages, a particular
9 group from said set of message groups based upon a mapping
10 between the particular group and the address data;
11 sorting each of the plurality of electronic messages into said set of
12 message groups based on the particular group identified for each
13 of the plurality of electronic messages; and
14 providing to the user the plurality of electronic messages that are sorted
15 into said set of message groups.

1 35. The computer-readable medium of Claim 34, wherein the address data
2 includes a sending address and wherein the step of identifying the
3 particular group based upon the mapping between the particular group
4 and the address data comprises instructions which, when executed by
5 one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out
6 the step of:
7 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
8 the particular group and the sending address.

1 36. The computer-readable medium of Claim 34, wherein the address data
2 includes a receiving address and wherein the step of identifying the
3 particular group based upon the mapping between the particular group
4 and the address data comprises instructions which, when executed by
5 one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out
6 the step of:
7 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
8 the particular group and the receiving address.

1 37. The computer-readable medium of Claim 36, wherein the receiving
2 address is an address that is only associated with the user and an e-mail
3 resource from which said each of the plurality of electronic messages is
4 received, and wherein the step of identifying the particular group based
5 upon the mapping between the particular group and the receiving
6 address comprises instructions which, when executed by one or more
7 processors, cause the one or more processors to carry out the step of:
8 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
9 the particular group and the address.

1 38. The computer-readable medium of Claim 34, wherein the step of
2 providing to the user the plurality of electronic messages that are sorted
3 into said set of message groups comprises instructions which, when
4 executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
5 carry out the step of:
6 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is an
7 unwanted electronic message; and
8 ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is identified as
9 said unwanted electronic message.

1 39. The computer-readable medium of Claim 38, wherein each of the
2 plurality of electronic messages includes a sending address, and wherein
3 the step of identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic
4 messages is said unwanted electronic message comprises instructions
5 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more
6 processors to carry out the step of:
7 determining whether the sending address is included in a list of
8 authorized sending addresses; and
9 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as unwanted
10 when the sending address is not included in the list of authorized
11 sending addresses.

1 40. The computer-readable medium of Claim 38, wherein each of the
2 plurality of electronic messages includes contents, and wherein the step
3 of identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is
4 said unwanted electronic message is based on the contents of each of the
5 plurality of electronic messages.

1 41. The computer-readable medium of Claim 40, wherein the step of
2 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said
3 unwanted electronic message comprises instructions which, when
4 executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to
5 carry out the step of:
6 determining whether each of the plurality of electronic messages
7 contains a hidden image; and
8 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as unwanted
9 when said each of the plurality of electronic messages contains
10 said hidden image.

1 42. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 using a computer-implemented intermediary to filter electronic messages, wherein
3 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
4 causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
5 receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to subscribe to an
6 e-mail resource;
7 generating an address that is only associated with the user and the e-mail
8 resource;
9 sending, from the intermediary in response to the request, the address to
10 the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the user to the e-mail
11 resource using the address;
12 receiving, from the e-mail resource, an electronic message the includes
13 the address;
14 identifying whether the electronic message is an unwanted electronic
15 message; and

16 when the electronic message is not identified as said unwanted
17 electronic message, providing the electronic message to the user.

1 43. An apparatus for using a computer-implemented intermediary to manage electronic
2 messages, comprising:
3 a means for receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to
4 subscribe to an e-mail resource;
5 a means for generating an address that is only associated with the user
6 and the e-mail resource; and
7 a means for sending, from the intermediary in response to the request,
8 the address to the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the user
9 to the e-mail resource using the address.

1 44. The apparatus of Claim 43, further comprising:
2 a means for generating a plurality of additional addresses, wherein each
3 of the plurality of additional addresses is only associated with a
4 unique pairing of one of a plurality of users and one of a plurality
5 of e-mail resources;
6 a means for receiving, at the intermediary, a plurality of electronic
7 messages from the plurality of e-mail resources, wherein each of
8 the plurality of electronic messages is addressed using one of the
9 plurality of additional addresses; and
10 a means for providing one or more of the plurality of electronic
11 messages to the user only when each of the plurality of electronic
12 messages is addressed using one of the plurality of additional
13 addresses that is associated with the user.

1 45. The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the means for providing the
2 plurality of electronic messages to the user comprises:
3 a means for sending the plurality of electronic messages from the
4 intermediary to the user at a forwarding address provided by the
5 user.

1 46. The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the means for providing the
2 plurality of electronic messages to the user comprises:
3 a means for generating, at the intermediary, a listing of the plurality of
4 electronic messages; and
5 a means for providing the user with the listing of the plurality of
6 electronic messages.

1 47. The apparatus of Claim 46, wherein the listing of the plurality of
2 electronic messages includes a set of groups and the apparatus further
3 comprises:
4 a means for sorting the plurality of electronic messages into the set of
5 groups based upon the address for each unique pairing of the
6 user and the one or more e-mail resources.

1 48. The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the means for providing the
2 plurality of electronic messages to the user comprises:
3 a means for identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic
4 messages is an unwanted electronic message; and
5 a means for ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is
6 identified as said unwanted electronic message.

1 49. The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes a sending address, and wherein the means for
3 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said
4 unwanted electronic message comprises:
5 a means for determining whether the sending address is included in a list
6 of authorized sending addresses; and
7 a means for identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages
8 as said unwanted electronic message when the sending address is
9 not included in the list of authorized sending addresses.

1 50. The apparatus of Claim 48, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes contents, and wherein the means for identifying
3 whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted
4 electronic message is based on the contents of each of the plurality of
5 electronic messages.

1 51. The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein the means for identifying
2 whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted
3 electronic message comprises:
4 a means for determining whether the electronic message contains a
5 hidden image; and
6 a means for identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages
7 as said unwanted electronic message when the electronic
8 message contains said hidden image.

1 52. An apparatus for categorizing electronic messages using a set of
2 message groups, comprising:
3 a means for receiving a plurality of electronic messages for a user,
4 wherein each of the plurality of electronic messages includes
5 address data;
6 a means for identifying, for each of the plurality of electronic messages,
7 a particular group from said set of message groups based upon a
8 mapping between the particular group and the address data;
9 a means for sorting each of the plurality of electronic messages into said
10 set of message groups based on the particular group identified for
11 each of the plurality of electronic messages; and
12 a means for providing to the user the plurality of electronic messages
13 that are sorted into said set of message groups.

1 53. The apparatus of Claim 52, wherein the address data includes a sending
2 address and wherein the means for identifying the particular group based
3 upon the mapping between the particular group and the address data
4 comprises:
5 a means for identifying the particular group based on a particular
6 mapping between the particular group and the sending address.

1 54. The apparatus of Claim 52, wherein the address data includes a
2 receiving address and wherein the means for identifying the particular
3 group based upon the mapping between the particular group and the
4 address data comprises:
5 a means for identifying the particular group based on a particular
6 mapping between the particular group and the receiving address.

1 55. The apparatus of Claim 54, wherein the receiving address is an address
2 that is only associated with the user and an e-mail resource from which
3 said each of the plurality of electronic messages is received, and wherein
4 the means for identifying the particular group based upon the mapping
5 between the particular group and the receiving address comprises:
6 a means for identifying the particular group based on a particular
7 mapping between the particular group and the address.

1 56. The apparatus of Claim 52, wherein the means for providing to the user
2 the plurality of electronic messages that are sorted into said set of
3 message groups comprises:
4 a means for identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic
5 messages is an unwanted electronic message; and
6 a means for ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is
7 identified as said unwanted electronic message.

1 57. The apparatus of Claim 56, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes a sending address, and wherein the means for
3 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said
4 unwanted electronic message comprises:
5 a means for determining whether the sending address is included in a list
6 of authorized sending addresses; and
7 a means for identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages
8 as unwanted when the sending address is not included in the list
9 of authorized sending addresses.

1 58. The apparatus of Claim 56, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes contents, and wherein the means for identifying
3 whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted
4 electronic message is based on the contents of each of the plurality of
5 electronic messages.

1 59. The apparatus of Claim 58, wherein the means for identifying whether
2 each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
3 message comprises:
4 a means for determining whether each of the plurality of electronic
5 messages contains a hidden image; and
6 a means for identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages
7 as unwanted when said each of the plurality of electronic
8 messages contains said hidden image.

1 60. An apparatus for using a computer-implemented intermediary to filter electronic
2 messages, comprising:
3 a means for receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to
4 subscribe to an e-mail resource;
5 a means for generating an address that is only associated with the user
6 and the e-mail resource;
7 a means for sending, from the intermediary in response to the request,
8 the address to the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the user
9 to the e-mail resource using the address;
10 a means for receiving, from the e-mail resource, an electronic message
11 the includes the address;

12 a means for identifying whether the electronic message is an unwanted
13 electronic message; and
14 a means for providing the electronic message to the user when the
15 electronic message is not identified as said unwanted electronic
16 message.

1 61. An apparatus for using a computer-implemented intermediary to manage electronic
2 messages, comprising:
3 a network interface;
4 a processor coupled to the network interface and receiving information
5 from the network interface;
6 a computer-readable medium accessible by the processor and
7 comprising one or more sequences of instructions which, when
8 executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the
9 steps of:
10 receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to subscribe
11 to an e-mail resource;
12 generating an address that is only associated with the user and
13 the e-mail resource; and
14 sending, from the intermediary in response to the request, the
15 address to the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the
16 user to the e-mail resource using the address.

1 62. The apparatus of Claim 61, wherein the computer-readable medium
2 further comprises instructions which, when executed by the processor,
3 cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
4 generating a plurality of additional addresses, wherein each of the
5 plurality of additional addresses is only associated with a unique
6 pairing of one of a plurality of users and one of a plurality of
7 e-mail resources;
8 receiving, at the intermediary, a plurality of electronic messages from
9 the plurality of e-mail resources, wherein each of the plurality of
10 electronic messages is addressed using one of the plurality of
11 additional addresses; and
12 providing one or more of the plurality of electronic messages to the user
13 only when each of the plurality of electronic messages is
14 addressed using one additional address from among the plurality
15 of additional addresses that is associated with the user.

1 63. The apparatus of Claim 62, wherein the step of providing the plurality of
2 electronic messages to the user comprises instructions which, when
3 executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the step of:
4 sending the plurality of electronic messages from the intermediary to the
5 user at a forwarding address provided by the user.

1 64. The apparatus of Claim 62, wherein the step of providing the plurality of
2 electronic messages to the user comprises instructions which, when
3 executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
4 generating, at the intermediary, a listing of the plurality of electronic
5 messages; and

6 providing the user with the listing of the plurality of electronic
7 messages.

1 65. The apparatus of Claim 64, wherein the listing of the plurality of
2 electronic messages includes a set of groups and the apparatus further
3 comprises instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the
4 processor to carry out the step of:
5 sorting the plurality of electronic messages into the set of groups based
6 upon the address for each unique pairing of the user and the one
7 or more e-mail resources.

1 66. The apparatus of Claim 62, wherein the step of providing the plurality of
2 electronic messages to the user comprises instructions which, when
3 executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
4 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is an
5 unwanted electronic message; and
6 ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is identified as
7 said unwanted electronic message.

1 67. The apparatus of Claim 66, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes a sending address, and wherein the step of identifying
3 whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted
4 electronic message comprises instructions which, when executed by the
5 processor, cause the processor to carry out the step of:
6 determining whether the sending address is included in a list of
7 authorized sending addresses; and

8 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as said
9 unwanted electronic message when the sending address is not
10 included in the list of authorized sending addresses.

1 68. The apparatus of Claim 66, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes contents, and wherein the step of identifying whether
3 each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
4 message is based on the contents of each of the plurality of electronic
5 messages.

1 69. The apparatus of Claim 68, wherein the step of identifying whether each
2 of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
3 message comprises instructions which, when executed by the processor,
4 cause the processor to carry out the step of:
5 determining whether the electronic message contains a hidden image;
6 and
7 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as said
8 unwanted electronic message when the electronic message
9 contains said hidden image.

1 70. An apparatus for categorizing electronic messages using a set of
2 message groups, comprising:
3 a network interface;
4 a processor coupled to the network interface and receiving information
5 from the network interface;

6 a computer-readable medium accessible by the processor and
7 comprising one or more sequences of instructions which, when
8 executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the
9 steps of:
10 receiving a plurality of electronic messages for a user, wherein
11 each of the plurality of electronic messages includes
12 address data;
13 identifying, for each of the plurality of electronic messages, a
14 particular group from said set of message groups based
15 upon a mapping between the particular group and the
16 address data;
17 sorting each of the plurality of electronic messages into said set
18 of message groups based on the particular group
19 identified for each of the plurality of electronic messages;
20 and
21 providing to the user the plurality of electronic messages that are
22 sorted into said set of message groups.

1 71. The apparatus of Claim 70, wherein the address data includes a sending
2 address and wherein the step of identifying the particular group based
3 upon the mapping between the particular group and the address data
4 comprises instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the
5 processor to carry out the step of:
6 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
7 the particular group and the sending address.

1 72. The apparatus of Claim 70, wherein the address data includes a
2 receiving address and wherein the step of identifying the particular
3 group based upon the mapping between the particular group and the
4 address data comprises instructions which, when executed by the
5 processor, cause the processor to carry out the step of:
6 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
7 the particular group and the receiving address.

1 73. The apparatus of Claim 72, wherein the receiving address is an address
2 that is only associated with the user and an e-mail resource from which
3 said each of the plurality of electronic messages is received, and wherein
4 the step of identifying the particular group based upon the mapping
5 between the particular group and the receiving address comprises
6 instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor
7 to carry out the step of:
8 identifying the particular group based on a particular mapping between
9 the particular group and the address.

1 74. The apparatus of Claim 70, wherein the step of providing to the user the
2 plurality of electronic messages that are sorted into said set of message
3 groups comprises instructions which, when executed by the processor,
4 cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
5 identifying whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is an
6 unwanted electronic message; and
7 ignoring each of the plurality of electronic messages that is identified as
8 said unwanted electronic message.

1 75. The apparatus of Claim 74, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes a sending address, and wherein the step of identifying
3 whether each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted
4 electronic message comprises instructions which, when executed by the
5 processor, cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
6 determining whether the sending address is included in a list of
7 authorized sending addresses; and
8 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as unwanted
9 when the sending address is not included in the list of authorized
10 sending addresses.

1 76. The apparatus of Claim 74, wherein each of the plurality of electronic
2 messages includes contents, and wherein the step of identifying whether
3 each of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
4 message is based on the contents of each of the plurality of electronic
5 messages.

1 77. The apparatus of Claim 76, wherein the step of identifying whether each
2 of the plurality of electronic messages is said unwanted electronic
3 message comprises instructions which, when executed by the processor,
4 cause the processor to carry out the steps of:
5 determining whether each of the plurality of electronic messages
6 contains a hidden image; and
7 identifying said each of the plurality of electronic messages as unwanted
8 when said each of the plurality of electronic messages contains
9 said hidden image.

1 78. An apparatus for using a computer-implemented intermediary to filter electronic
2 messages, comprising:
3 a network interface;
4 a processor coupled to the network interface and receiving information
5 from the network interface;
6 a computer-readable medium accessible by the processor and
7 comprising one or more sequences of instructions which, when
8 executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the
9 steps of:
10 receiving, at the intermediary, a request from a user to subscribe
11 to an e-mail resource;
12 generating an address that is only associated with the user and
13 the e-mail resource;
14 sending, from the intermediary in response to the request, the
15 address to the e-mail resource in order to subscribe the
16 user to the e-mail resource using the address;
17 receiving, from the e-mail resource, an electronic message the
18 includes the address;
19 identifying whether the electronic message is an unwanted
20 electronic message; and
21 providing the electronic message to the user when the electronic
22 message is not identified as said unwanted electronic
23 message.